

# EXHIBIT BF

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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IN RE: TERRORIST ATTACKS : 03-MDL-1570  
ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 : (GBD)(SN)

- - -

APRIL 27, 2021  
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Remote Videotaped  
Deposition, taken via Zoom, of JOHN  
SIDEL, commencing at 7:02a.m., on the  
above date, before Amanda  
Maslynsky-Miller, Certified Realtime  
Reporter and Notary Public in and for the  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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GOLKOW LITIGATION SERVICES  
877.370.3377 ph| 917.591.5672 fax  
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1 preparation of your report and opinions  
2 in this case, did you review any of that  
3 testimony?

4 A. No.

5 Q. In Footnote 47 of your  
6 report, you include a reference to a 2003  
7 book by Maria Ressa called Seeds of  
8 Terror.

9 Do you recall including that  
10 reference?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. And do you know Maria Ressa?

13 A. I've met her on one  
14 occasion. And I'm sad to say I recently  
15 watched a documentary video about the  
16 very sad and terrible things that have  
17 happened to her over the past few years.

18 So I'm well aware of her  
19 work in recent years. And I've read her  
20 earlier work, in part.

21 Q. And what is your opinion of  
22 her, as a professional matter?

23 A. I found her early work to be  
24 rather sensationalistic and overly

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1 credulous with regard to Philippine  
2 government sources.

3 But I have huge respect for  
4 what she has tried to do as a -- what  
5 would you say, a media entrepreneur in  
6 the Philippines due to the creation of  
7 the Rappler website and its courageous  
8 efforts to provide independent reportage  
9 under very difficult conditions in the  
10 Philippines.

11 I'm not a big believer in  
12 her earlier reportage and her account. I  
13 don't see her as having the genuine local  
14 expertise and/or, really, at that time,  
15 the critical kind of questioning approach  
16 that some other similar seasoned  
17 investigative reporters in the  
18 Philippines had that she did not have as  
19 a matter of course. She did not have the  
20 experience that her more senior  
21 colleagues did at the time.

22 Q. In Footnote 47 of your  
23 report, you describe the narrative in  
24 Pages 18 through 44 of her book Seeds of

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1                   So I'm asking, based on the  
2                   stuff -- the information I've  
3                   shown him today, does he have a  
4                   view as to whether or not al-Qaeda  
5                   had a hand in the Bojinka plot or  
6                   not.

7                   If the answer is no, that's  
8                   fine.

9                   THE WITNESS: I really don't  
10                  know. I mean, there's -- my  
11                  understanding was that Khalid  
12                  Sheikh Mohamed was not a member of  
13                  al-Qaeda, or Ramzi Yousef for that  
14                  matter. I'm not a specialist on  
15                  al-Qaeda and on the history,  
16                  clearly. I only dimly remember  
17                  Wali Khan Amin Shah and had  
18                  mistaken him for a Malaysian --  
19                  someone with a similar name based  
20                  in Malaysia working for Jemaah  
21                  Islamiyah.

22                  So I don't know what to say,  
23                  really.

24                  It seems strange to me,

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1           considering what we otherwise know  
2           about al-Qaeda and what its -- the  
3           periodization that the available  
4           secondary literature on al-Qaeda  
5           and expert accounts of al-Qaeda  
6           suggest.

7                     It's 1998. It's by 1998  
8           that al-Qaeda is developing an  
9           interest in attacking American  
10          targets. These sorts of plots  
11          sound very adventurous and very  
12          advanced and kind of outrageous in  
13          terms of their scope and ambition.

14                    And for people to be engaged  
15          in this sort of planning at this  
16          time, it seems out of step with  
17          the broader narrative that we  
18          otherwise have about the  
19          development of al-Qaeda over the  
20          course of the 1990s.

21                    But I'm -- you know, my  
22          expertise on these matters is not  
23          my primary expertise.

24   BY MR. CARTER:

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CERTIFICATE

I, Amanda Maslynsky-Miller, Certified  
Realtime Reporter, do hereby certify that  
prior to the commencement of the examination,  
JOHN SIDEL, was remotely sworn by me to  
testify to the truth, the whole truth and  
nothing but the truth.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that the foregoing is a  
verbatim transcript of the testimony as taken  
stenographically by me at the time, place and  
on the date hereinbefore set forth, to the  
best of my ability.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither a  
relative nor employee nor attorney nor  
counsel of any of the parties to this action,  
and that I am neither a relative nor employee  
of such attorney or counsel, and that I am  
not financially interested in the action.

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Amanda Miller  
Certified Realtime Reporter  
Dated: May 12, 2021

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